

Taurus Software News
September 2004

Welcome to this edition of Taurus Software News, your insider's guide to the Taurus family of products. Taurus Software News is distributed worldwide to people using technologies within the Taurus product line.

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1. Warehouse, BridgeWare's and DataBridger's Data Movement Engine, News
Current release: 3.00.3440
Available platforms: Windows, HP3000, HP-UX, RS6000, Linux, Sun, SGI
Release notes: <http://www.taurus.com/support/releasenotes.htm>

This month we are going to examine some of the Warehouse functions you may have read about but weren't sure when to use or how to use them. How can you count subfields within a database field or remove leading or trailing blanks in a field? How can you use an IF function to determine the output when there are many if...else combinations that need to be used? How can you check the range of a value to determine whether the field is legitimate? How can you convert an integer to an Oracle decimal? We will answer these questions as we explain some of the many Warehouse functions available for your use.

TOKENCOUNT

If you have fields in your database that are miscellaneous filler fields containing subfields that are delimited and you want to know how many there are, the new `TOKENCOUNT` function is what you need to use. The `TOKENCOUNT` function is used to count substrings from a large character field that are delimited by a space, a comma, or other delimiter. If you have a character field that is used to hold item counts, for example, and each count is separated by a blank or other delimiter, you can use the `TOKENCOUNT` function to find out how many are in the field. If you have the following character string "1 13 23 9 21", you can count the number using `TOKENCOUNT`. All you have to do is supply the name of the string and the delimiter. For example, to count the tokens from the string above, use the following:

```
Setvar N = TOKENCOUNT (string, " ").
```

Warehouse will return a 5 for the above string.

TRIMR and TRIML

When you have a field in the middle of a string with leading and trailing blanks, you may want to extract just the field from the middle of the string. If you use the `TRIML`, you can get rid of the leading blanks (the blanks to the left of the field) and you can use `TRIMR` to get rid of the trailing blanks (the blanks to the right of the field). `TRIMR` is helpful when you load a field that has trailing blanks to a target field that is a `VARCHAR` field and then want to compare the source and target fields. If you have a source field that is defined as “DATA ” (with trailing spaces) and load it into a `VARCHAR` target field, the resulting target field will be defined as “DATA”. When you compare the fields without using the `TRIMR` function, there is a mismatch because the source has trailing spaces. The syntax is:

```
TRIMR(FIELD)
or
TRIML(FIELD).
```

If you want to remove both leading and trailing blanks you can combine the functions as follows: `TRIMR(TRIML(FIELD))`.

SCRUB

This new function in Warehouse can be used to replace control characters in a string with another character. `SCRUB` looks for any ascii character that is smaller than a space or is greater than a tilde (~). Any character in the string that fits these criteria is replaced by the defined replacement character. If you are moving data from one table to another and want to get rid of the garbage data, you can use the following: `SCRUB(FIELD, " ")` to replace a control character with a space. If you want to check to see if any records have these control characters, you can use the following format:

```
IF(FIELD = SCRUB(FIELD, " "))
  PRINT "Error in Field", FIELD, "for record", RECORD_TAG
ENDIF
```

FILLL and FILLR

These functions are the opposite of the `TRIML` and `TRIMR` functions. If you have a 3 character string within a 20 byte field, you can pad the 17 characters to the left by using the `FILLL` function. The first 17 bytes will be filled with the designated character and the remaining 3 bytes will be the original string. `FILLR` will do the same thing except that the designated character will be filled to the right of the string. Let's suppose you have a string that contains ASCII numbers and the characters are

left justified. If you want to right justify the characters and zero fill them to the left, you can do this with the `FILLL` function. If `FIELDA` (a 10 byte string) has the following data: “278”, you can right justify it by using the following format:

```
FILLL(FIELDA,10,"0").
```

`FIELDA` will now look like: “0000000278”.

`IF`

When you need to create complex `if, then, else` logic in Warehouse, you can do it all in an `IF` function. The syntax of `IF` function is:

```
If(condition,true result,false result).
```

A basic example could look as follows:

```
Setvar Target.Amt = If(Amount < 10000,Amount,$null).
```

In this example, `Amt` is set to `Amount` if the source value is less than 10,000, otherwise it is set to `$null`. We can also nest the `IF` functions to create `If, then, else` logic. In the above example, you may want to set `Amt` to `Amount` when `Amount` is less than 10,000 or to `Amount / 100` when `Amount` is greater than 10,000 and less than 1,000,000. This `IF` function would look like:

```
Setvar Target.Amt = If(Amount < 10000,Amount,If(Amount < 1000000,Amount / 100,$null))
```

The nested `IF` function inside another `IF` function provides `If, then, else` capabilities. You can continue nesting `IF` functions as needed to get the complexity of an `IF` statement.

The `IF` function is useful for checking the range of the source data before moving the data to a target field. This is helpful when you think there may be garbage values in a field or a numeric database field was used in some cases to hold ASCII data. If you know that an amount is never greater than 1,000,000, you can use an `IF` function to move the `Amount` field if the amount is lower or `$null` if the amount is high. You can also use `AND` and `OR` operators to check different values. For example, if you know a `Code` value is only “A”, “B”, or “C”, you can use the `IF` function to check these values and move them if the source value is appropriate. For example, you can write the code:

```
If(Code = "A" or Code = "B" or Code = "C", Code, $null).
```

The target field will be set to `$null` if the source is not A, B, or C.

DIVF and DIVI

converting from a source integer field to an Oracle numeric field is done automatically by Warehouse, but what if the source integer is really an integer which represents dollars and cents? If you set the target field to `Amount / 100`, Warehouse will divide the `Amount` field by 100 but the cents will be lost.

The new `DIVF` operator allows you to do the division and keep the cents in the oracle numeric field. The syntax is

```
Amount DIVF 100.
```

Warehouse knows to convert the `Amount` field to a numeric field before doing the division. `DIVI` converts the input field to an integer field before doing the division and the decimal part will be dropped after the division.

Warehouse has a rich set of functions that can help you to do many kinds of things that would normally require writing big chunks of code. String manipulation and numeric field checking are among the many functions that Warehouse allows you to do. The complete list of Warehouse functions is in the Built-In Functions section (Chapter 5) of your Warehouse Reference Manual.

Have a topic about Warehouse you want featured in our newsletter? Send your idea to support@taurus.com

2. Studio, GUI Development Workbench, News
Current release: 3.1.089200
Supported OS: Windows 98, Windows ME, Windows NT 4.0, Windows XP, Windows 2000+

Studio has a number of different types of Warehouse scripts it can generate for initial loads. Most of these are “configured” from the properties box on the initial load script. The properties dialog box allows you to limit the number of records to be moved, set your `COMMITRATE`, and to set your status display (`PROGRESS`). In the following screen shot, I have set the number of records to move to 100 and set my `COMMITRATE` to 1000. When ever I change the value on the properties box, Studio will change the script to match these values.

http://www.taurus.com/newsarchive/img/sept/initial_load_script_properties.jpg

3. Ecomedate, Ecometry ODS
Current release: 4/20/04

Supported Ecometry releases: 5, 6, 7 MPE

Available mappings include : comp-div-master, style-header, whse-locs, vend-ord-from, item-mast, edp-item-xref, kit-index, vendor-items, style-item-data, item-desc, offers, sources, source-xref, offer-pages, offer-items, multi-pricing, upsell, customers, customer-comp, customer-addl, customer-phone, customer-demo, customer-promo, cust-xref, order-header, order-sub-head, customization, order-xref, oh-additions, order-comments, service-track, order-actions, bo-file, pick-lot-header, pick-lot-detail, returns, manifest-entries, fedex-entries, po-header, po-details, po-actions, po-comments, inventory-trans, financial-order and inv-details.

Introducing Ecomedate Analysis Suite! Now that Ecomedate has provided us with a great foundation of Ecometry, Taurus has begun developing reports from the environment. The reports, pivots, charts, and dashboards are developed using the Hyperion products and can serve as a product which you can use out of the box or as templates for your own reports. We have begun doing demos of these reports. If you would like to see what the Ecomedate data foundation can do for you and some sample output from the Ecomedate Analysis Suite, please contact sales@taurus.com.

4. Company News!

Our address has changed. We are now located at 420 Brewster, Redwood City, CA, 94063. Our phone, fax number, and web site have remained the same.

5. Events and Seminars

September 30th and October 28th at 11A PT, Taurus will hold a seminar on Ecometry migrations. If you are migrating and would like to know how Ecometry is using Taurus' products for the migrations, sign up on the web at:
<http://www.taurus.com/webinars/ecometry.htm>

October 14th at 11A PT, Taurus will hold a seminar on Amisys migrations. If you are migrating to Advance and would like to know the performance advantages of using Taurus' product offering for your migration, sign up on the web for the seminar at:
<http://www.taurus.com/webinars/amysis.htm>

6. Web Site Picks

Annoyed with some feature or option in Windows? These guys can help:
<http://annoyances.org/>

Need to learn .net or XML but out of cash? Try this site: <http://www.w3schools.com/>

Want to vote, but not sure where candidates stand on the issues? This site is devoted to unbiased statements about candidates. Founded by people who believe informed voters are the key to forming a more perfect union. See them at: <http://www.vote-smart.org/>